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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The headquarters of Útvar (Unit) 9600 of the Czechoslovak Security Force (Svaz národní bezpečnosti—SNB) is located in the barracks at Praha-Vršovice. Útvar 9600 is concerned with border control duties and has seven battalions under its command. These are located in Liberec, Litoměřice, Karlovy Vary, Písek, Plzeň, České Budějovice, and Hradec Králové. Commanding officer of Útvar 9600, and therefore commandant of the SNB in Bohemia, is Colonel Honolka, a veteran gendarmerie officer who sold out to the Communists. His deputy is Lieutenant Colonel Kovář Jiří.
2. The general staff of Útvar 9600 consists of 20 officers and approximately 30 enlisted men. The adjutant is Major Pipich. The headquarters are divided into three sections: Section I (personnel), under Captain Kráke; Section II (communications) under 1st Lieutenant Pechar; Section III (transportation) under Major Korcina.
3. In addition to the above-mentioned frontier battalions, Útvar 9600 also controls the ZU, or Zvláštní útvar (Special Unit), which is the personal bodyguard of the President and his cabinet and also serves to protect important foreign visitors. The ZU consists of 8 to 10 officers and approximately 800 men under the command of Major Paducha and is also quartered in Praha-Vršovice. The ZU is an elite guard in every sense of the word: it consists only of the most loyal Communists and is fully motorized, well-clothed, and well-armed.
4. Útvar 9600 has its own small air force, the headquarters of which are in Prague at King George VI Street 69. The force is under the direct control of the Ministry of the Interior and has as its function the observation and reconnaissance of border areas. Units of this air force are stationed at the airfields at Ruzyně (near Prague), Karlovy Vary, Hradec Králové, České Budějovice, and Klatovy. The aircraft, mainly Fieseler Storch and ME 109's, are painted red and bear the symbol "BZ". The force's 40 to 50 squadrons (sic) were until recently under the command of Colonel Vlk, but he has been suspended and his successor is not yet known.
5. The normal organization of an SNB frontier battalion:

Commanding Officer: major or lieutenant colonel
2 adjutants
1 signal officer

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- 2 -

25X1

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- 1 orientation officer (political commissar)
- 1 motor officer
- 1 personnel relations specialist
- 1 band leader (sic)

The motor pool generally consists of six staff cars, two trucks, and two busses, all of which are old Wehrmacht vehicles in poor condition. An SNB frontier battalion generally controls from four to eight companies.

6. A frontier guard company is generally commanded by a junior officer or a first sergeant and consists of approximately 150 men. A squad of 9 to 12 cavalrymen is attached to each company. The motor pool consists of one or two staff cars and one truck.
7. There are three to four platoons in each border guard company. Each platoon, which is generally commanded by a sergeant, contains one other non-commissioned officer and 35 men. One staff car is allotted to each platoon.
8. The border guard battalions are poorly equipped. Half the men carry rifles and half carry Russian machine pistols. In addition, each platoon has two or three old German light machine guns. Every company has three 70-cm. searchlights. The men are inadequately fed and some units tend their own cattle and pigs. In addition to the ordinary food card, supplementary card T4 is issued to each man, which provides an additional 300 g. fat, 700 g. meat, and 3.4 kg. bread per month.
9. The units suffer from an acute shortage of officers, since the career officers were for the most part discharged for political unreliability. Most of the organizational positions calling for officers are filled by noncommissioned officers.

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